State	No. of Units
Maharashtra	6
Orissa	1
Punjab	1
Rajasthan	1
Tamil Nadu	4
U.P.	3
UT of Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1
West Bengal	3

(c) to (e) ICMR's National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad, is currently engaged in the following three studies related to asbestos: (i) Study of Health Hazards/Environmental hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of Asbestos in the country, (ii) Epidemiological study in ship breaking workers at Alang (Gujarat), (iii) Environmental-cum-epidemiological study in Chrysotile and tremolite milling/minning units in Pulivendla (A.P.) and Bhim (Rajasthan).

These studies have been recently initiated and results are expected to be available in the next few years.

Unit of Botanical Survey of India at Itanagar

1841. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a unit of Botanical Survey of India (BSI) was established at Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Arunachal Pradesh falls under one of the global mega-diversity centres and is one of the world's bio-diversity hotspots;

(c) if so, the details of the infrastructure facilities provided or proposed to be provided to Itanagar unit of BSI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Itanagar Unit of BSI has been provided with its own office-cum

herbarium building with library, museum and laboratory facilities. The unit has a sanctioned strength of five Group 'A' scientists, including the Head of the Office, and 20 supporting staff, which includes both scientific & technical and ministerial. The unit has 22 residential quarters of different categories from Type I-IV.

The planned infrastructure includes establishment of a conservatory and a medicinal plant section in the associated garden of the unit for cultivation, multiplication, *ex situ* conservation and for scientific study of the endemic, threatened and medicinally important species of the State.

New Environmental norms for prior clearance to new projects

1842. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governemnt have finalized new Environmental norms under which companies will have to get prior clearances for new projects or expansion and modernization of the existing ones;

(b) if so, what are the details of the new environmental laws;

(c) whether Government have also included a process of public consultation to address the concerns of the local affected persons or others who have a plausible stake in environmental impact of the project; and

(d) by what time they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government has brought out a draft revised Environment Impact Assessment Notification published in Gazette of India *vide* S.O. 1324(E) dated 15th September, 2005. The salient features of the proposed Notification include:

* Developmental activities have been classified into a clear Category A list of activities requiring environment clearance at Central level and clear Category B list of activities requiring environmental clearance at State level.
* Scoping has been introduced by which the regulator specifies the Terms of Reference (TOR) leaving no scope for repeated iterations in the EIA Process.
* A structure and time frame is provided for public consultation. Alternate provisions exists in case time frame is not adhered to.